INFO-HAMS Digest Thu, 19 Oct 89 Volume 89 : Issue 778

Today's Topics:

Date: 18 Oct 89 17:39:00 GMT
From: inmet!benk@uunet.uu.net
Subject: All India Radio Audible in E. NoAm.

A while back, I recall reading a note posted by someone who wanted to know if/how they could receive broadcasts from All India Radio in the eastern part of North America. The poster had apparently tried many times to recieve this station with no success.

Now that Autumn is upon us (in the Northern Hemisphere), a path of total (or near) darkness exists between India and the eastern part of North America during several hours during the local late afternoon. At this time it is possible to hear the General Overseas Service (in English) of All India Radio on a couple of frequencies in the 25, 31, (and if you are lucky 41) meter SW broadcast bands.

The two best frequencies at my QTH (Boston) have been 11620 and 9910 kHz. The "opening" starts at about 2100 UTC (it gets earlier as the sun sets earlier and earlier), and lasts until 2230-2245 or so, when 11620 closes down. Last year, 11620 and 9910 were about equally good; so far this year 11620 is better: 9910 has suffered from a lot of QRM, possibly sideband splatter from the badly mis-modulated signal of Radio Cairo's European service on 9900.

Good luck and good listening!

-- Ben Krepp

From uunet: uunet!inmet!benk
From DDN: benk@inmet.inmet.com

Date: 19 Oct 89 02:29:30 GMT
From: uw-entropy!dataio!pilchuck!ssc!tad@beaver.cs.washington.edu (Tad Cook)
Subject: Back to Part 15 (was Re: Unrestricted access (was Re: Part 15))

Although I have never seen them marketed as "cellular style" phones,
I am sure the part 15 devices that Rusty saw at the store were
49 MHz walkie talkies. Shouldn't have any more problems from them
than from the Archer "Space Patrol" radios at Radio Shack.

73,
Tad
tad@ssc.UUCP
KT7H @ N7HFZ

Date: 18 Oct 89 00:41:15 GMT
From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!uakari.primate.wisc.edu!uwm.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!
ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu
Subject: Building A (Very) Low Cost Repeater

I've seen somewhere (in a magazine) an article on building the repeater from
HT's, but it left out a couple of things. One was how to legally id the
repeater transmission (assuming the repeater is in "automatic control",
one of those legal "stickies"), and the other was how does the repeater
control know FOR SURE when the receiver is receiving something. HT's do
not have a "squelch is open" output connection that I know of.

--Phil howard-- <phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>
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Date: 17 Oct 89 22:11:14 GMT
From: cadnetix.COM!cadnetix!rusty@uunet.uu.net (Rusty Carruth)
Subject: direct conversion RF data receiver in ECN

Did anyone else see the DC RF data receiver in this months ECN?

Its the SL6639, made by Plessy. Cost is ONLY $6.80 in 50,000 quantities :-)

(Sure, I'll take 100,000... Ha!)

It "integrates a low-noise RF cascode amplifier, a direct-conversion mixer,
baseband amplifiers and filters, and a data demodulator into a single IC".

"Only one external resistor is needed to bring the tunable filters into operation, and the gyrator technique provides adjacent channel rejection in excess of 70dB at 25-KHz channel spacing".

"Alignment of channel filters requires the adjustment of only one pot".

Sensitivity is typically -124 dBm (0.14 microvolt) at 150 MHz from a 50 ohm source. It dissipates 3 mW, works to 200 MHz, but only "data rates to more than 1.2 kbits/s".

Sounded to me like pretty good sensitivity, its too bad that there does not appear to be any way to bypass the data detector. Has anyone else seen the blurb, and what do you think?

---Join the usenet un-net, 28.410 and/or 28.390, 1500Z to 1600Z saturdays!
Rusty Carruth. Radio: N7IKQ ^^ or later :-)
DOMAIN: rusty@cadnetix.com UUCP:{uunet,boulder}!cadnetix!rusty
home: POB. 461, Lafayette 80026

Date: 17 Oct 89 13:54:00 GMT
From: inmet!benk@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Help! SWL in Africa

Yes, it can be done for less than $250.

I'd suggest the Sangean ATS-803A, which is marketed in the U.S.A. by Radio Shack as their DX-440. It sells for about $190.

The DX-440 is small enough to be readily portable, and has all the features needed by the ordinary SW broadcast listener. It has gotten very good reviews from the techies, too. (See reviews in the 1987, 1988, and 1989 "Passport to World Band Radio".)

-- Ben Krepp

From uunet: uunet!inmet!benk
From DDN: benk@inmet.inmet.com

Date: 19 Oct 89 00:40:59 GMT
From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!uakari.primate.wisc.edu!uwm.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu
Subject: Japan bashing???? maybe, but....

I spoke with some people at 2 of the big 3 Japanese ham radio companies that sell in the US, today. I talked to them about their policy of not giving out the information to make their radios work 420-440 Mhz. They will give out the info if you have a MARS or CAP license, but who needs those licenses to work 420-440 Mhz? With VHF radios, their policy makes sense since the radios already cover 144-148 Mhz, but with UHF radios it no longer does.

What VHF frequencies does MARS use, by the way?

The problem is of course the way the radios are designed to work. The micro processor inside them reads a matrix of diodes that tells it what features the radio is supposed to have, such as the range of frequencies. However there is no way to set up the diodes to enable 420-440 Mhz without ALSO enabling 450-470 Mhz or more. The dealers and manufacturers are also getting pressure from the FCC not to sell these radios into the public service market since they are not type accepted for that market.

The micro processor therefore must at least know about the various band ranges that it will need to enable (or not enable). The problem seems to be that it does not know about 420-430 as a separate range, and perhaps the 430-440 range (used in Japan and Europe) is mutually exclusive with 440-450 (i.e. one diode in means change from 430-440 to 440-450).

I tried to suggest to the people I talked to at the manufacturers that they ask the engineering design people to make the next versions of the processor software so that it knows of the band ranges 420-450 and 430-450 (for above line A and Canada) so that either they can give out that limited mod info more readily, or better yet, make the units sold in America already have the full appropriate range.

The response I got from the people I talked to was that the radios are made in Japan (I already knew that) and that there is nothing they can do. I asked more questions and found out that no one in the United States is EVER consulted regarding the design of a radio.

Now it would not be very hard at all to make the very small little software changes that are needed to make a radio that can still be a fully international model and can still be configured on the production line to work on 420-450 Mhz or 430-450 Mhz. The people on this side of the big pond don't seem to want to make any effort to get this done or even considered by the design people.

There are some other problems with radios made in Japan. For instance Kenwood has made several models recently that have LCD displays and they claim that LCD works fine in Japan. So if this is the case, then they didn't consider other markets when they designed the radios. We also often hear about the audio quality being set up for Japanese language speech and left that way even for American models. Yet another example is the 23cm radios that use a 20 khz channel step instead of the 25 khz standard band plan the ARRL has

established (which is used by at least half of the 23cm repeaters). 25 khz
is certainly possible since the European version does have it.

What we see here is a worse example of the case of manufacturers not listening
to what the consumers want (en masse in this case) as well as the American
manufacturer reps adding further resistance to any effort to suggest product
improvement.

I plan to continue and repeat my efforts to get these companies to respond.
While I will probably still make some phone calls, letters do seem to be in
order. Does anyone have the JAPANESE addresses to mail to for these companies?

I'd also like to suggest that anyone that is not 100% satified with their
rice box radios, to PLEASE write a letter to the manufacturer(s) (including
the Japanese offices if the addresses can be found) explaining what is wrong
with the radio design, and what you think they can and should do to make the
next model much better.

Is this more "Japanese bashing"? Maybe, but more likely it is a case of
bashing some sense into someone.

--Phil Howard KA9WGN--
phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

Date: 19 Oct 89 00:40:37 GMT
From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!uakari.primate.wisc.edu!uwm.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!
ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu
Subject: KCBI

>   No: the principal reason SW broadcast stations change frequencies every
> three/four months is because propagation conditions change with the seasons
> (remember the amount of daylight at the transmitter/receiver locations - not
> to mention wherever any "hops" take place - has a dramatic effect on the
> condition of the ionosphere above, and hence upon propagation.)

That is certainly a major cause. But from a regulatory point of view, it
is fixed at 3 months (which does exactly coorespond to the seasons by
frequency, though maybe not in phase). Even if a station believed that
a certain frequency was fine for them in all four seasons, they still
have to request it every quarter. Allocations are broken down by hours
as well as frequency.

--Phil howard-- <phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>
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Date: 17 Oct 89 13:47:00 GMT
From: inmet!benk@uunet.uu.net
Subject: KCBI

No: the principal reason SW broadcast stations change frequencies every three/four months is because propagation conditions change with the seasons (remember the amount of daylight at the transmitter/receiver locations - not to mention wherever any "hops" take place - has a dramatic effect on the condition of the ionosphere above, and hence upon propagation.)

-- Ben Krepp

From uunet: uunet!inmet!benk
From DDN: benk@inmet.inmet.com

Date: 17 Oct 89 12:07:34 GMT
From: genrad!dls@husc6.harvard.edu (Diana L. Syriac)
Subject: More about Ham Stacks

I figured it was probably time to update y'all about the Ham Stacks. As most of you already know, I have created some HyperCard stacks for use on the MacIntosh computer for practicing the written Amateur Radio tests. Available right now are the Novice Ham Stack (questions which were good until November 1, 1989), Technician Ham Stack (questions which were good until November 1, 1989), General Ham Stack and Advanced Ham Stack. I am currently working on the Extra Ham Stack and will probably have it done around early November. A friend has also obtained for me the latest Novice questions, so I am updating the Novice Ham Stack for the new questions now, and expect that to be complete by late October.

I have Stuffit, and have tried to use it to compress the files to place onto one diskette. The consensus is that all four of the existing stacks WILL fit onto one diskette....but there's not enough room left over for UnStuffit. Therefore, if you already HAVE UnStuffit, you can request to have them sent that way. Otherwise I'll only send your first and second (and possibly third) choice. Right now I have ready-made diskettes:

1. Novice, Tech, General, Advanced compressed with Stuffit
2. Novice, Tech and General Ham Stacks (Does not require Stuffit)
3. General and Advanced Ham Stacks (Does not require Stuffit)

If you wish any of these or you wish the new ones (New Novice or Extra), please email your name, ADDRESS (DON'T FORGET AN ADDRESS), and prioritized choices. Alternately, the existing stacks may be obtained via anonymous

FTP at tank.uchicago.edu, located in directory /pub/public. The new
stacks will be mailed to Peter (at tank.uchicago.edu) after I've finished
them.

I am still looking for someone to send me the new questions for the Technician
test. No sense in me buying them since I've already passed that test. But
if someone provides me with the questions, I will update the Technician
Ham Stack with the new questions as well.

Last but not least, I just wanted to add:
I'm OFFICIAL! I got my CALLSIGN YESTERDAY! Yea! :-)

Diana
->   Diana L. Syriac   CAP: SM, Freedom 690 Mobile   Ham: N1GZS <-
->USmail: GenRad Inc., Mail Stop 6, 300 Baker Ave, Concord, Mass. 01742 <-
->usenet: {decvax,mit-eddie}!genrad!dls   or dls@genrad.com
         <-
->tel: (508) 369-4400 x2459   I'D RATHER BE FLYING!!!
             <-

Date: 18 Oct 89 19:36:06 GMT
From: deimos.cis.ksu.edu!harris.cis.ksu.edu!mac@uunet.uu.net (Myron A. Calhoun)
Subject: Opening PB-2 HT battery

I have two PB-2 batteries for my Kenwood TH-215A HT wherein one
cell has gone bad in each (as determined by voltage measurement).
I know how to "zap" and/or replace individual cells, once I have
access to them,
                        BUT I CAN'T OPEN THE BATTERY!

However, the battery pack on my wife's TH-21AT pops open very easily.

Is it possible? Any suggestions?
--Myron
--
Myron A. Calhoun, PhD EE, W0PBV, (913) 532-6350 (work), 539-4448 (home).
INTERNET: mac@ksuvax1.cis.ksu.edu
BITNET: mac@ksuvax1.bitnet
UUCP: ...{rutgers, texbell}!ksuvax1!harry!mac

Date: 16 Oct 89 15:50:57 GMT
From: garfield!leif!jcraig@uunet.uu.net
Subject: rec.ham radio

Does anyone have comments on the ten-tec OMNI V xcvr?
Joe VO1NA

Date: 19 Oct 89 01:31:48 GMT
From: uw-entropy!dataio!pilchuck!ssc!tad@beaver.cs.washington.edu (Tad Cook)
Subject: Starting over - after 30 years

The note about Instructographs really jogged my memory. Amateur
Radio Supply in Seattle used to rent them by the week. They stopped
doing it in the mid-1970s when cassete tapes got too popular for the
survival of the Instructograph. They were in a black box and had a
wind-up mechanism that ran paper tape. You could adjust the speed
of the tape to vary the code practice speed.

73,
Tad
KT7H @ N7HFZ
tad@ssc.UUCP

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #778
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